

BOOK REVIEWS

A REVISION OF THE NEW WORLD SPECIES OF *THALYCRA* ERICHSON, with a description of a New Genus and Notes on Generic Synonymy (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). Henry F. Howden, Entomology Research Institute, Research Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario. The Canadian Entomologist, Supplement 25, 1961, 61 pp.

This is a thorough revision of the 16 New World species of the sap beetle genus *Thalycra* and includes a description of a new closely related monotypic genus *Pseudothalycra*. Keys, synonymies, diagnoses, descriptions, distributional data, distributional maps, and comparative illustrations of diagnostic features are presented.—JEROME G. ROZEN, JR.

THE NEST ARCHITECTURE OF THE SWEAT BEES. A Comparative Study of Behavior. Shôichi F. Sakagami and Charles D. Michener. The University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, 1962, 135 pp., figs. 1-181, price \$5.00.

The sweat bees, whose common name is derived from their frequent habit of lapping perspiration from their skin, constitutes the subfamily Halictinae of the Halictidae, with approximately 2000 known species. This group is unique in the occurrence among its various species of a continuous spectrum from strictly solitary to fairly complicated social behavior. Consequently, these bees offer an unexcelled opportunity to study the evolution of social organization, one major aspect of which is nest structure.

The main purpose of this thin, easily read book is to compare and summarize the previous knowledge of the nest structure and function and to add previously unreported information. The introductory chapter deals with certain philosophical aspects of the interrelationship of comparative behavior and taxonomy. The following main subjects are dealt with by chapter: nest-site preference, gregariousness, nest elements other than brood cells, arrangement of brood cells, brood cells, winter shelter, utilization of pre-existing structures, classification of nest patterns, relationship between architecture and taxonomy, and relationship between architecture and social organization. Over 150 papers are listed in the bibliography.—JEROME G. ROZEN, JR.